Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /039 W

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R 110915Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9177

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, LA, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: THAI-LAO TALKS

REF: BANGKOK 3063

- 1. EMBOFF ON FEB 11 REVIEWED WITH DR. SRISOOK OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THAI AIRWAYS CORP. (TAC) EXECS PROSPECTS FOR CIVAIR TALKS IN VIENTIANE.
- 2. DR. SRISOOK CONFIRMED PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT LAO HOPE TO INITIATE TWICE WEEKLY SERVICE TO BANGKOK USING USSR AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS. THAI DEL WILL PROPOSE THAT LAO AVIATION EMPLOY LAO PILOTS INSTEAD BUT THAI ASSUME LAO WILL DECLINE FOR FEAR PILOTS MIGHT DEFECT. THAIDEL WILL THEN PROPOSE THAT LAO AVIATION HIRE THAI PILOTS.
- 3. MAIN STICKING POINT FOR THAI, AND RESON BEHIND SUSPENSION OF SERVICES, WAS LAO PROPOSAL THAT LAO AUTHORITIES BE DESIGNATED GENERAL SALES AGENCY (GSA) FOR TAC. TAC OFFICIALS CONSIDER THIS TANTAMOUNT TO "NATIONALIZED" GSA AND FEAR TAC WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COLLECT ON BANGKOK-EUROPE TICKETS WHICH MIGHT BE SOLD ON THAI INTERNATIONAL SERLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VICES BY LAO GSA. TAC OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAVE HAD GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE IN PAST IN COLLECTING ON DEBTS INCURRED BY LAO.

4. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AFTERNOON FEB. 11 SENT TELEGRAM TO LAO AUTHORITIES REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR TAC AIRCRAFT TO FLY THAIDEL DIRECTLY TO VIENTIANE DESPITE

SUSPENSION OF SERVICES. LAO RESPONSE MIGHT PROVIDE CLUE
TO MOOD OF LAO AUTHORITIES.
WHITEHOUSE

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